

Capsule Summary
SM-665
Fox Tenant House
Leonardtwn vicinity
Private

c. 1940

Erected c. 1940, Fox Tenant House is a representative example of a modest rural cottage constructed for tenant farmers. While somewhat progressive in the way the kitchen space was integrated into the overall house plan (see sketch plan in description 7.1), the one-and-a-half story, double-pile, frame dwelling followed a traditional site plan. Situated off of Compton Road near Leonardtown, Maryland, the house would have been distant but visible from passing traffic--a pattern consistent with earlier plantations. The locations of the surrounding outbuildings convey a similar retention of traditional farm organization and practices.

The dwelling has already had most of its original trim, doors, mantels, and architectural details removed. Windows have been broken and much of the interior retains possessions of the house's prior occupants who may have been squatters. The house is in a dilapidated state and will be demolished to make way for a series of Rapid Infiltration Basins designed to supplement the overburdened St. Clements Shores Waste Water Treatment Plant.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. SM-665

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fox, Vowles Purchase, Turkey Cock Hill

and/or common Fox Tenant House (pref.)

2. Location

street & number E side Md Route 243 (Compton Road) approx. 2 miles S of int. of Rts. 243 & 5

☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Md county St. Mary's TM-40, G-8, P-118

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Abdussamed Samadi

street & number Sotterley Rd. RR3, Box 456 telephone no.: 301-475-9638

city, town Hollywood state and zip code Md 20636

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 1016

street & number folio 233

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-665

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 6

Fox Tenant House is located on the east side of Compton Road (Md. Route 243) approximately 2 miles south of the intersection of Md. Routes 243 and 5 near Leonardtown, Maryland. The dwelling is approached via a dirt road that extends eastward from the main road. Rolling cultivated fields of soybean nearly encircle the house as the east side is bounded by a wooded tract. A group of outbuildings, that include a storage shed, granary, garage, and a chicken coop, lie to the north of the house, while a corn crib and shed are situated to the south and east. The house, currently in a dilapidated condition, is scheduled for demolition to make way for a series of Rapid Infiltration Basins that are to supplement the overburdened St. Clements Shores Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The Fox Tenant House, constructed c. 1940, is a one-and-a-half story, three bay, four room plan cottage with a gable roof. While the foundation is obscured by metal sheathing, the exterior walls are sheathed with clapboard fastened to a frame, consisting of dimensioned lumber, with cut finishing nails. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles although evidence found on a shed roof projection on the north side of the house reveals the original roofing material consisted of decorative pressed-metal shingles. Two, interior end, brick chimney flues extend from the roof.

The primary or west elevation is pierced by a centrally located panelled door flanked on either side by a set of paired, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. All of these bays are shaded by a screened-in porch supported by four, square, classically-inspired columns that descend in size from top to bottom thus suggesting entasis.

The south elevation consists of the house's gable end. On the first floor, the fenestration is composed of two, six-over-six windows that lie on either side of the slightly offset chimney flue. The second floor features two, attenuated, four-over-four windows.

The east or rear elevation is pierced on the first floor by a six-over-six window and a six-pane-over-three-panel door. Interestingly, a gable dormer extends from the roof to light the half story. The preference for a dormer on the rear of the house remains uncommon in the county. The dormer exhibits a paired set of six-over-six windows

The north elevation's first floor is lit by two six-over-six windows and a shed roof projection with the aforementioned roof of decorative, pressed metal shingles. This projection is pierced by a paired set of six-over-six windows. Like the south elevation, the half story is lit by two, four-over-four windows that lie on either side of a centrally located interior end chimney flue.

The interior features a relatively open plan. Immediately upon entering the cottage, a modest, open-string stair lies directly in front of the main entrance. The stair featured square balusters and a handrail that is no longer extant. On either side of the stair is a living room. Each of these spaces have corner fireplaces. Scars mark the location of modest mantels that once adorned the fireplaces. The room behind the northwest living room is a kitchen that exhibits a number of doors that lead to a pantry, bathroom, closet, and hallway into a bed chamber situated in the southeast corner of the house. This chamber has retained parts of its original mantel. The half story contains two rooms that appear to have never been finished. They feature no architectural elaboration.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-665

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Erected c. 1940, Fox Tenant House is a representative example of a modest rural cottage constructed for tenant farmers. While somewhat progressive in the way the kitchen space was integrated into the house plan (see sketch plan in description 7.1), the dwelling followed traditional modes of locating farmsteads. Situated off of Compton Road, the house would have been distant but visible from passing traffic—a pattern consistent with earlier plantations. The locations of the surrounding outbuildings convey a similar retention of traditional farm organization and practices.

The dwelling has already had most of its original trim, doors, mantels, and architectural details removed. Windows have been broken and much of the interior retains possessions of the house's prior occupants who may have been squatters. The house is in a dilapidated state and will be demolished to make way for a series of Rapid Infiltration Basins designed to supplement the overburdened St. Clements Shores Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Survey No. SM-665

Acreage of nominated property 115.64 acres
Quadrangle name Leonardtown

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

A

Diagram A shows three empty coordinate grids. The first grid is labeled 'Zone' and has 2 vertical lines. The second grid is labeled 'Easting' and has 4 vertical lines. The third grid is labeled 'Northing' and has 4 vertical lines. Each grid has a horizontal line at the bottom and a vertical line on the left.

Zone Easting Northing

B

Figure B displays three bar charts showing the distribution of 1000 individuals across 10 zones for three different variables: Zone, Easting, and Northing. The x-axis for all charts is labeled 'Zone' and ranges from 1 to 10. The y-axis represents the number of individuals, with a scale from 0 to 1000. The 'Zone' chart shows a relatively even distribution across all zones. The 'Easting' chart shows a higher concentration in zones 1 through 5, with a sharp drop in zones 6 through 10. The 'Northing' chart shows a higher concentration in zones 6 through 10, with a sharp drop in zones 1 through 5.

Zone	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	1	100	100
2	2	100	100
3	3	100	100
4	4	100	100
5	5	100	100
6	6	100	100
7	7	100	100
8	8	100	100
9	9	100	100
10	10	100	100

C

D

E

F

G 

H | | | | | | | | | |

Same as per deed description.

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Private Contractor

date 8-24-98

street & number PO Box 1235

telephone 301-373-5465

city or town Leonardtown

state Md

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-665, Fox Tenant House
St. Mary's County
7.1 Description

The group of outbuildings situated to the north of the house include the garage, chicken coop, granary, and storage shed. All of these buildings are sheathed with clapboard fastened to the circular sawn frame with wire nails and have roofs covered with raised-seam metal.

The corn crib and storage shed are located to the east and south of the house. While the storage shed is similar in construction to the aforementioned outbuildings, the corn crib exhibits a mid-twentieth century carry-over of earthfast construction. The crib consists of a series of earthfast, creosote-covered pilings set at regular intervals. Rising up to 25 feet, these pilings support a shed roof covered with raised-seam metal. A tongue-and-groove floor and wire mesh between the pilings represent the primary means of keeping the corn ears from spilling out. A single door is located on this outbuilding's north side.

First Floor Plan

Fox Tenant House

SM-665

9-15-98

Drawn by: Kirk Ranzetta

(Not to Scale)

N ←

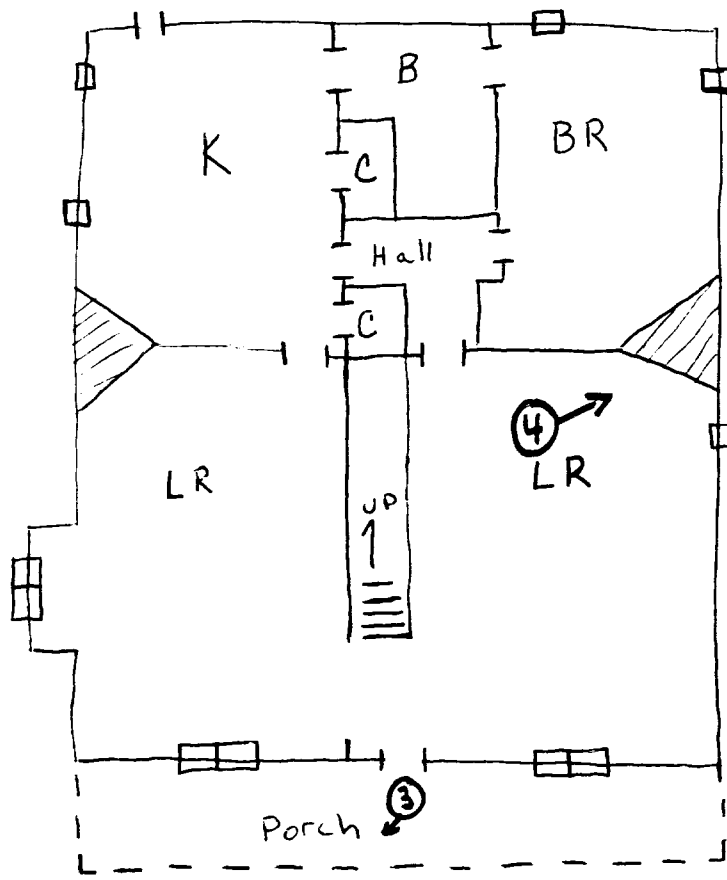


Photo documentation

E

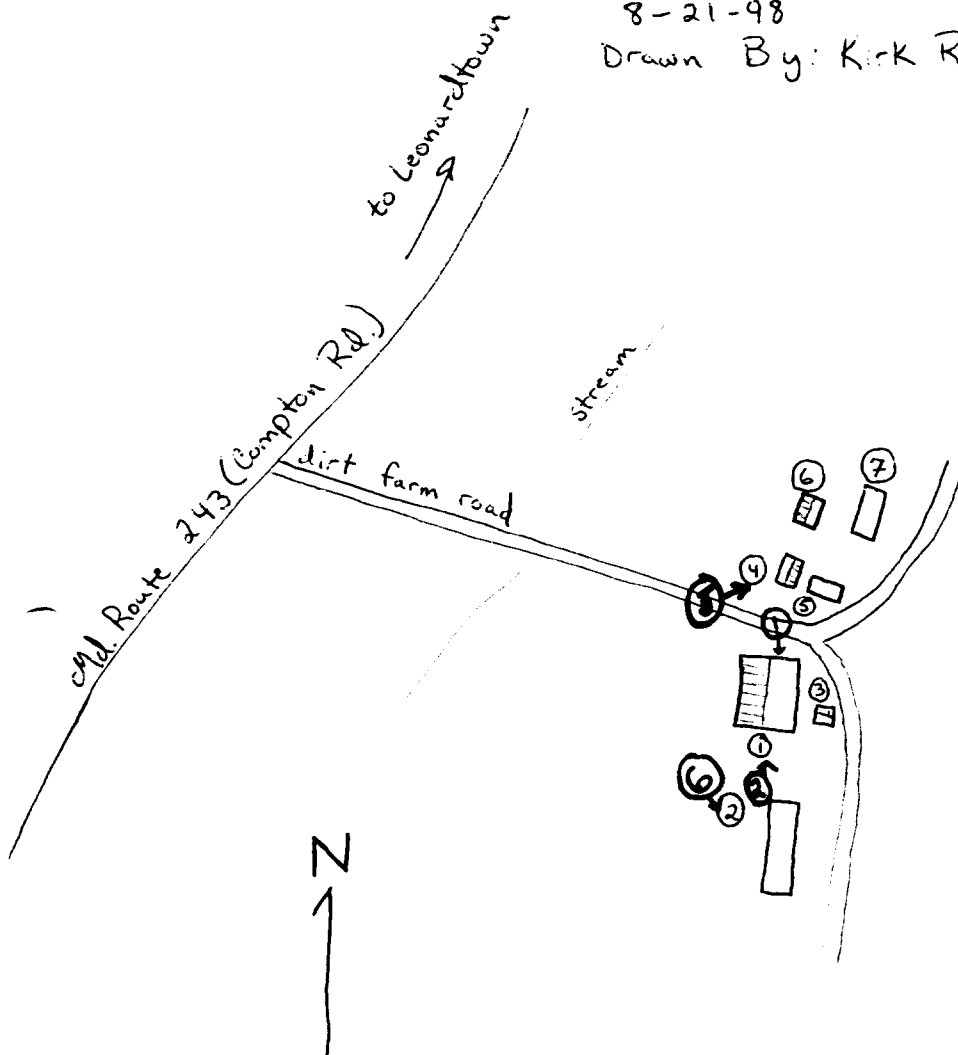
Site Plan

SM-665

Fox Tenant House

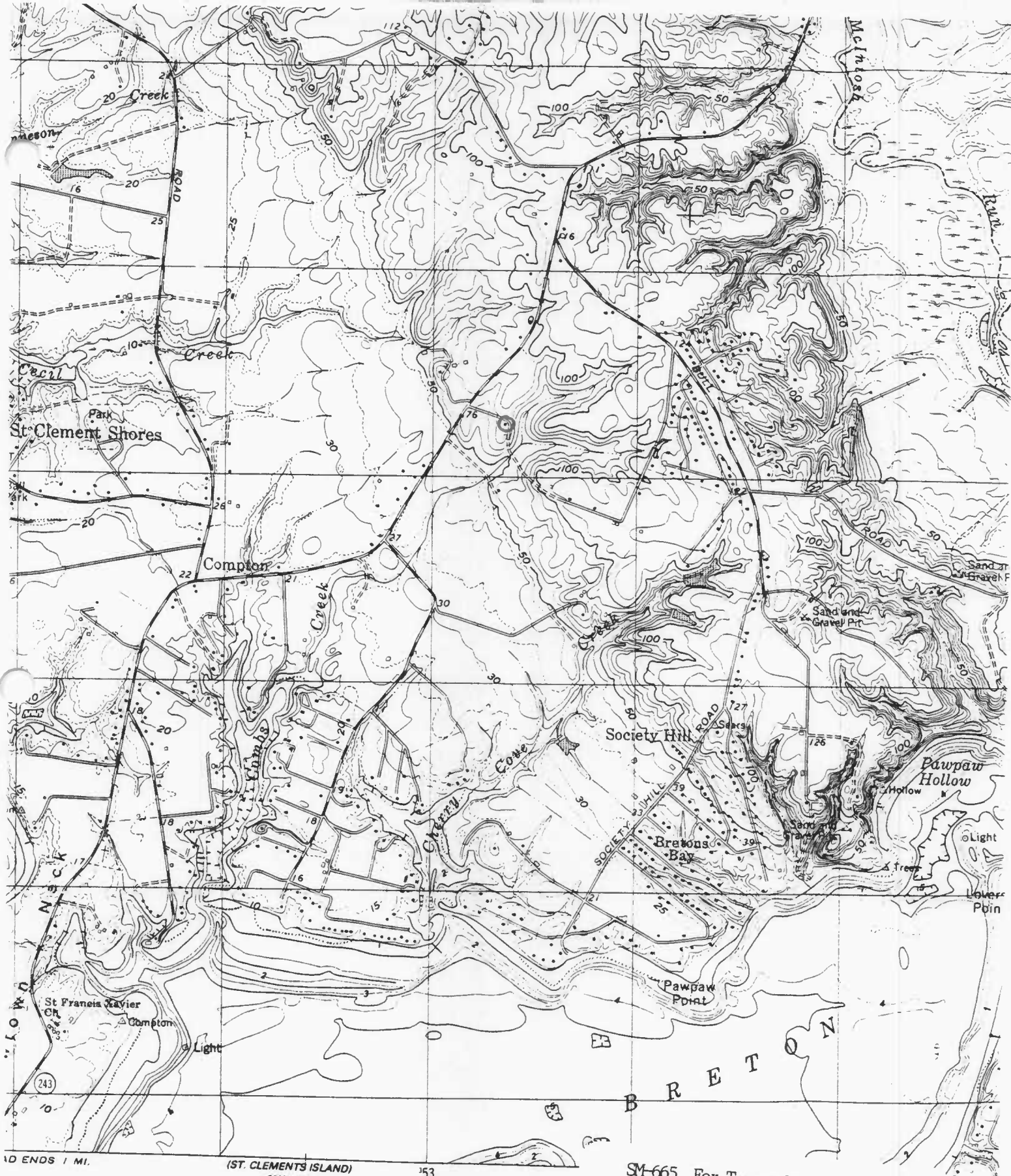
8-21-98

Drawn By: Kirk Ranzetta



- ① Main House
- ② Corn Crib
- ③ storage Shed
- ④ Garage
- ⑤ Storage Shed
- ⑥ Granary
- ⑦ Chicken Coop

(Not to Scale)





SM-652

Long Island Sound

St. Mary's Cemetery, old

Kirk Parrott

cAugust, 1998

SHD SHD

N elevation

1 of 6



SL 665

John Toward House

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranchette

August, 1992

Md SLPO

Elevation

2 of 6



CM 665

1000 2000 3000 4000

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

August, 1998

4A SHP

Porch Column - looking NW

2 of 6



CP# 663

Franklin House

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

August, 1992

Old CHFD

Mantel (see Challenge from last page)

1 of 6



CH-665

Max Tenort House

St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Roncette

August, 1998

and CHPO

Out buildings looking E

5 of 6



SM-625

St. Francis House

St. Mary's County, MD

Kirk Parrillo

August, 1998

Old SHPO

Main Crib - looking SE

6 of 6